

Tom Horne Superintendent of Public Instruction

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parents and Recipients of the Arizona Scholarship for Pupils with Disabilities

FROM: Candice Trainor

Education Program Specialist

DATE: August 21, 2008

SUBJECT: Scholarship Status

This memo is to inform you that funding for the Arizona Scholarship for Pupils with Disabilities has been reinstated for the 2008-2009 school year.

Superintendent Horne fought vigorously to get clarification and approval of the legal transfer of funds to support this scholarship program. As of today, Mr. Horne has received that approval and has instructed this office to resume the program effective immediately. Payments will be made on a quarterly basis as in past years and will be calculated from the first day of attendance for all approved students.

Please be aware, we cannot guarantee how long the scholarship will remain in effect as the legal challenge has been appealed to the Arizona Supreme Court. That appeal is not expected to be considered until October at the earliest and possibly much later. There are several possible outcomes. The Supreme Court could either overturn or uphold the Appeals Court decision or they could decide not to hear the case at all. Should the Court choose not to hear the case, the Appeals Court decision declaring the scholarship unconstitutional would stand as issued. There is no way for us to anticipate what the court will do, however we will keep you informed of any new developments as they become available.

In the meantime, if you wish to reinstate your scholarship, you must indicate so by email at <u>Candice.Trainor@azed.gov</u>, or by phone at (602) 364-3984. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.